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SENATE RESOLUTION 42  
By Wilder

A RESOLUTION To honor and commend William K. "Bill"  
Kershner for his remarkable accomplishments in  
the field of aviation.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community and professional leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, One such noteworthy person is William K. "Bill" Kershner, who will be honored during the grand opening ceremony of the Tennessee Museum of Aviation for his significant contributions to the field of aviation; and

WHEREAS, Bill Kershner began flying in 1945 at the age of 15; in addition to his studies at Clarksville High School, he worked as a Line Service Boy at the Clarksville, Tennessee airport, washing, fueling, and propping airplanes for 40 cents per hour to pay for his flying lessons; by 1948, he was a Flight Instructor earning a total of three dollars per flight hour; and

WHEREAS, He attended Iowa State University and Austin Peay State College, before joining the United States Navy in 1951; after flying Corsairs off the carrier *U.S.S. Philippine Sea*,

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he honorably served as a navigation and instrument training officer, a jet transition training officer, and finally as a chase pilot in F9F-6 Cougars; and

WHEREAS, After his distinguished military service, William K. Kershner flew corporate planes for about a year, before returning to Iowa State University; while studying there he worked as a flight instructor on the weekends; during one of his flight classes, a curious student asked him about the old *Civil Aeronautics Administration Flight Manual*; he explained to his class that the “book was far too technical, had no humor, few pictures, and was poorly organized”; he also told his class that he could write a better version; this incident propelled him to write the first of his many successful books, *The Student Pilot's Flight Manual*; and

WHEREAS, In 1960, Bill Kershner completed his degree in Technical Journalism, with additional courses in aerodynamics, stability and control, and aeronautical engineering; in the early 1960s, he moved to Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, where he worked for Piper Aircraft Corporation as a sales engineer, demonstrating planes to the military and performing a variety of flight-testing assignments; while at Piper he was promoted to supervisor of experimental flight testing; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kershner, during this time, published his second book, *The Advanced Pilot's Flight Manual*; due to the outstanding sales of his first two books, he was able to fulfill a long-time dream of opening his own specialized school of flight instruction; and

WHEREAS, At his first school in Sewanee, Tennessee, utilizing a Beech Musketeer Aerobatic Sport II and a Cessna 150 Aerobat, William K. “Bill” Kershner skillfully taught airplane performance, stability, and aerobatics; students from all across the world, with varying flying backgrounds have taken his excellent courses, including civilian and Army flight instructors, FAA Inspectors, FBI pilots, prospective airline pilots, military pilots, engineers, and military test pilots; he is also highly sought after by such prestigious schools as Embry Riddle University and the University of Tennessee to teach Flight Instructor refresher courses; and

WHEREAS, Bill Kershner's flight style, which he calls "Defensive Flight, " stresses the importance of safety in flight, while emphasizing spin recognition and proper recovery; and

WHEREAS, In the 1970s, he was involved in a series of ground-breaking spin tests, some of which were filmed from both inside and outside of the aircraft as it made up to 21 revolutions; and

WHEREAS, While most pilots keep a record of flight hours, William K. Kershner in his logbook also has a special column for spins; he has completed 7,000 spins, all three-turns or more, in 30 different types of aircraft; and

WHEREAS, An accomplished pilot, instructor, and author, Mr. Kershner followed up his first two successful books with *The Instrument Pilot's Flight Manual*, *The Flight Instructor's Manual*, and the publication of numerous articles in various aviation magazines, including *Private Pilot*, *Flying* and *Skyways*; his books have reached a cumulative total of 20 editions and 93 printings with total sales of over 1,350,000; and

WHEREAS, Hundreds of pilots have benefited from using his flight training manuals; he has also donated hundreds of hours of his time to speak to young people about the importance of flight safety and to encourage them to consider a career in aviation; and

WHEREAS, During his extraordinary aviation career Bill Kershner has deservedly received many awards, including being named the 1992 General Aviation/ FAA National Flight Instructor of the Year and the 1997 Elder Statesman of the Aviation National Aeronautic Association and receiving the 1994 Ninety-Nines Award of Merit and the 1990 Tennessee Aeronautics Commission's Career Contribution to Aviation Award; he has also given lectures and spin demonstrations at the University of Tennessee Space Institute, the Naval Air Test Center, the FBI Academy, and the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum; and

WHEREAS, William K. Kershner epitomizes the spirit and commitment that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, This General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud William K. "Bill" Kershner for his numerous contributions to aviation in the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor William K. "Bill" Kershner on the occasion of his recognition by the Tennessee Museum of Aviation, salute his courage, purpose, and commitment, and thank him for his remarkable contributions to the fields of aviation and aviation instruction; we also extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy